

**NATIONAL SUMMIT OF  
COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT (CBFM)  
PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS (PO)**

**Theme:** “Strengthening CBFM POs in the Development  
and Management of Forest Land Resources”

*Held in cooperation with the*

**The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)**

*and the*

**Philippine Environmental Governance (EcoGov) Project**

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## Table of Contents

<b>Day 01</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Arrival and Registration..... 1
1.2	Meeting of the PO Federation by Island Group..... 1
<b>Day 02</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Preliminary Activities ..... 2
2.2	Welcome Remarks by DENR Regional Director Augustus Momongan..... 2
2.3	Keynote Address by DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun ..... 2
2.4	Overview by DENR CNFMO Chief Domingo Bacalla..... 7
2.5	Updates of the National PO Federation by National CBFM PO Chairperson Josefina Campo ..... 8
2.6	Status of the Regional PO Federation ..... 9
A.	Luzon ..... 9
B.	Bicol-Visayas..... 12
C.	Mindanao ..... 14
2.7	Policy Updates on CBFM: National Perspective by Mr. Domingo Bacalla..... 18
2.8	Simplification and Harmonization of CBFM Regulatory Procedures by FDC Executive Director Eleno Peralta..... 20
2.9	The POs' Costs in Carrying Out their CBFM Obligations by EcoGov Chief of Party. Ernesto Guiang ..... 22
2.10	Workshop on the Proposed Simplification of CBFM Policies and Joint Venture Agreement (JVA)..... 24
A.	Luzon ..... 24
B.	Visayas..... 24
C.	Mindanao ..... 26
2.11	Meeting of the National PO Federation and Election of Officers ..... 28
<b>Day 03</b>	<b>29</b>
3.1	Preliminary Activities ..... 29
3.2	Financial and Service Opportunities for the Uplands ..... 30
A.	Foundation for Philippine Environment (FPE) by Ms. Mylene Pagatpatan, Project Officer..... 30
B.	Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) by Mr. Larry Villacorte, Jr., Senior Program Officer ..... 31
C.	QUEDANCOR by Ms. Marian Calderon, AVP for Systems Planning..... 32
3.3	Organizational Planning..... 34
3.4	Synthesis ..... 37
3.5	Closing Message by DENR Usec. Renato de Rueda..... 37
3.6	Closing Activities..... 38



## **Day 01**

### ***December 1***

#### **1.1 Arrival and Registration**

Participants from all over the country started arriving as early as 8 o'clock in the morning. Registration started at 3:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

#### **1.2 Meeting of the PO Federation by Island Group**

After dinner, the participants were divided into three groups according to geographical area (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao) where they came from. Discussions revolved on accomplishments, strengths and weaknesses, issues and recommendations and lessons learned. The discussion lasted up to 11:00 p.m.



**Luzon**

**Visayas**



**Mindanao**



## **Day 02**

### **December 2**

#### **2.1 Preliminary Activities**

Dr. Isabelo Montejo of DENR 7 led the opening prayer while Ms. Laarni Anenias of EcoGov led the participants in the singing of the Philippine National Anthem. The emcee then acknowledged the presence of special guests: DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun; DENR 7 Regional Executive Director (RED) Augustus Momongan; former CBFM Director and current DENR 4 RED Panoy Tolentino; EcoGov Chief of Party Ernesto Guiang and current CBFM National PO Federation President Josefina “Inday” Campo.

#### **2.2 Welcome Remarks by DENR RED Augustus Momongan**

RED Momongan expounded on the theme of the summit: “Strengthening the CBFM POs in the Development and Management of Forest Resources.” He compared the POs to an infant, who first crawls then guided and encouraged to stand up and walk on its own. He said that all POs, like the infant, would eventually learn how to walk on their own with the guidance of organizations like the DENR/CBFM and projects such as EcoGov. The ultimate objective, he added, is to someday see strong and self-reliant POs take care of their own forest land resources



He also emphasized the commitment of Secretary Gozun to the CBFM strategy. He welcomed the participants to the summit and thanked ECOGOV for supporting the

activity. He expressed his expectations that the workshop would be participatory and productive for everyone concerned.

#### **2.3 Keynote Address by DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun**

Sec. Gozun expressed her happiness at being able to spend time with the participants in this special occasion. She said that when she assumed the post of DENR secretary, one of her first concerns was the advancement of CBFM.

Thus, based on her discussion last August with PO representatives, it was decided to conduct a summit in the hope of strengthening the POs, which she said, are the partners of the DENR together with the NGOs in caring for the environment.



Sec. Gozun said that the principal challenge is to make the concern of the environment a concern for all. According to her, this could only be done if there is a conscious effort for DENR and other concerned organizations to reach out, inform and educate and be an active partner of the people.

She said that upon taking over as DENR Secretary, she immediately ordered a review of the CBFM strategy. The assessment showed the strengths and weaknesses of the program and revealed questionable practices, such as the abuses in the use of resource use permit (RUP), which was temporarily suspended in January 2003. The abuses are being investigated and those found guilty will be punished, she said, adding that an inventory of RUPs issued is currently being conducted. In August 2003, issuance of RUPs in natural forest was completely suspended except in those areas where permits had already been issued. This was done to put in order the implementation of CBFM and to avoid the continued cutting of natural grown trees, the secretary explained.

Sec. Gozun said the RUP suspension in fact provided an excellent opportunity to evaluate the status of the CBFM program. She realized that no one is more qualified to tell government what needs to be done than the people themselves. During the assessment, several workshop and consultations were conducted to learn about the experiences of the POs. She said she personally attended some of the consultations and noted that there were failures and gaps in the implementation of the program as well as successes like the ones in Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

Sec. Gozun laments the fact that while other countries know about the Philippines' success stories and are inspired by them, only a handful in the country, and even at DENR, are aware that there are fruitful CBFM experiences in the Philippines. She said she looks forward to hearing more of these success stories in the next two days.

After enumerating the different ongoing programs and projects meant to reforest and protect the country's remaining forests, the Secretary stressed that further forest destruction could be stopped if the CBFM POs and the DENR would work closely together.

### Interaction with the Secretary

DENR RED Panoy Tolentino acted as moderator during the interaction

**1) Issue:** Mr. Arnold Macaraeg of Region 2 said it seems that only the POs are directly involved in the program and not the entire community. While some POs may claim that they represent their communities, it cannot be denied that many represent only a small portion of their communities, making it appear that the POs have exclusive rights over the resources. There is no proof that the POs are authorized by the community to undertake CBFM.

**Response:** Secretary Gozun said that that situation may be true in some communities but not in others. It would seem that way, she explained, because only members of the POs are usually active in the community. On the question of how to ensure the involvement of the whole community, she said that this should be part of the summit discussion in the next few days.



**2) Issue:** Ms. Josefina “Inday” Ocampo asked Mr. Macaraeg if his PO really represents his community and what are his indicators.

**Response:** Mr. Macaraeg answered that his PO has representations from other barangays.

**3) Issue:** Mr. Rodolfo Talle of Region 12 raised the issue on suspension of RUP on natural grown trees. He said that the DPWH is able to use natural grown trees for their infrastructure projects despite the suspension because, according to DPWH personnel, they have a certain kind of “arrangement.” He wanted to know how the POs can become the legitimate source of timber to support the needs of DPWH, etc. (what CBFM POs could do so that they will be patronized by users like DPWH). He added POs have difficulty competing since the prices offered by illegal sources are much lower than what they are offering.

**Response:** Sec. Gozun said that the DENR is planning to come up with a mid-term solution to the problem of marketing by commissioning a study on timber tracking. The study, she said, will be a kind of mapping on wood sources, kinds of woods, its uses and a listing of possible users (companies) as well as how much the users are paying for a particular kind of wood. Once the database is ready it will be placed in a web site or disseminated in other ways for the POs to access such information.



As to the problem of illegal logging and the DPWH, the secretary appealed to the participants to immediately inform the DENR so that proper action could be taken. Since the RUP on natural grown trees is suspended, then DPWH might be getting their products from poachers, she said, adding that the DPWH is a government agency and it should not be condoning actions like this. She cited the fact that DENR managed to stop small-scale miners from cutting trees by linking them with CBFM. She added, there is no truth to the existence of “arrangements”. “*Chismis lang*,” she said.



**4) Issue:** Mr. Oscar Oñate of Region 2 requested the Secretary to lift the suspension.

**Response:** Sec. Gozun clarified that the suspension is not nationwide. She said lifting the suspension depends on the assessment made by the regional offices, adding that if based on the assessment the CBFM POs have good track record then the suspension is lifted. In fact, she said, it has been lifted in two regions. Some regional officers, she explained, may be wary in submitting favorable recommendations because she has earlier issued a warning that if violations are later found the DENR personnel who made the recommendation would be made accountable. The POs are given the privilege to use the resources but DENR has to make sure that no violations are committed, she stressed.

RED Tolentino clarified that there are three factors for assessing the RUP suspension in each region: PO assessment, sharing agreement and LGU accountability of the region.



**5) Issue:** As to the PO assessment, Mr. Oñate presented what he claimed was a document signed by the former PO president contesting the report of the PO assessment team.

**Response:** Mr. Bacalla of CBFM central office said that in fairness to the Regional Office, it has assured the central office that it would discuss the results of the multi-stakeholder study with the POs concerned.

**6) Issue:** Mr. Eduardo Paras of Region 12 said that up to that moment, suspension has not been lifted in the region despite the fact that the assessment was concluded in June. It has made life of the PO members difficult, he said, because they cannot harvest and therefore have nothing to sell.

**Response:** The Secretary said the result of the assessment is the basis of the recommendation for lifting the suspension. She explained that DENR is trying to push agro-forestry and other livelihood programs to lessen people's dependence on cutting of trees.

**7) Issue:** Mr. Florentino Mabras of CARAGA stated that DENR was able to obtain P100 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for reforestation of the whole nation. The money was supposed to be divided among the different regions. He said only P39 million was utilized and the rest was given back to ADB despite the fact that CARAGA needed additional funds for its reforestation program.

**Response:** Sec. Gozun said that it was a loan from the ADB and that the Philippine government would have to pay it back with interest even if the money was not used. It would be impractical to keep on paying the interest even if the money was not being used, so it was returned, she said. She also said that she hoped that other fund sources would be available to help in the reforestation program.

**8) Issue:** Region 3's Mr. Vicente Cantiga stated that some POs have already completed their reforestation contracts with DENR but they have not been paid yet. He would like to request the Secretary to fast track payment for completed projects. Second, he would like to propose that CBFM section be made a division so that there will be enough personnel to assist the POs. Third, that those deputized by DENR be given incentives like insurance and legal assistance.



**Response:** Sec. Gozun said the problem is due to the delayed release of funds to DENR by the Department of Budget Management (DBM). She said that the DENR has already submitted the budget to DBM and that it is now awaiting the signature of the DBM Secretary. As to the suggestion of making the CBFM section a division, she said current budgetary constraints would not allow such to happen, as this would entail additional staff and operating expenses. She cited that DENR staff salary is about 69.7 percent of the department's budget while 25 percent is for operating expenses. This leaves the DENR with very little or

no money at all for development projects. On the issue of insurance, she said DENR has already talked with an insurance company; premium is still being negotiated as the amount quoted was very expensive. To help out the POs, she said a meeting with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and Tanggol Kalikasan has been scheduled to get their pledge to provide legal assistance to CBFM POs.

**9) Issue:** A gentleman from Region 4 asked how the PO would be able to earn money from income-generating projects when they have problems in marketing their product. He requested the DENR to prepare a list of potential buyers/markets of their products.

**Response:** Sec. Gozun said the DENR will try to come up with a list including the status of the market.

**10) Issue:** Mr. Saturnino Linsagan of Region 10 said that POs in their area have a problem with transporting their products due to the poor state of their bridge

**Response:** The Secretary promised to bring the matter to the President.

**11) Issue:** One PO in Region 9 has already been issued an RUP, according to Mr. Vinancio Cueno. The problem now, he said, is the conflict between CBFMA and CADT/CALT, especially in the delineation of boundaries.

**Response:** A meeting with the National Indigenous Peoples' Commission has been scheduled already to try to resolve the problem and come up with a guideline.

**12) Issue:** A representative from Quirino observed that *kaingin* is thriving in his province because there are no alternative way by which people can earn money. He took the opportunity to thank the DENR for linking the federation to QUEDANCOR, which provides a financing scheme for upland farmers. He said such assistance might help curb *kaingin* in his area.

**Response:** Similar livelihood assistance programs are being implemented to assist not only upland farmers but coastal residents as well.



**13) Issue:** Mr. Samson Atluna of the Cordillera Autonomous Region said that there are areas that have been reforested and developed by private individuals without government support. He said that the least that DENR could do is to express its thanks to these private individuals/groups by including them in CBFM.

**Response:** The Secretary said it would be difficult if the area developed was a private property. One thing DENR could do is make these individuals part of a list of people and organizations that have successfully reforested and developed forest lands to be shared with other stakeholders so that they would know and perhaps learn from the experience. But if the area developed was public land then these private individuals or groups may qualify for CBFM. She requested the participants to give DENR further details.

**14) Issue:** The problem in Region 8, according to Mr. Rolando Garote, is that some indigenous people from Surigao would just come to their area to cut rattan without getting permission and this happens even within the CBFM area.

**Response:** The Secretary clarified that a CBFM holder is entitled to use the resources in the CBFM area. Thus, a holder has the right to prohibit anyone from harvesting the resources in the area.

**15) Issue:** Ms. Erlinda Suam of Region 11 said that POs in some regions have already been given RUPs but Region 11 POs still have to receive their RUP. She said the Aetas, who are members of the CBFM POs, are saying that it seems the policy of the government is '*bigay-hindi, bigay-hindi*'.

**Response:** The Secretary said that the general RUP suspension was for natural grown trees. She promised to check the problem with RED Dolino.

**16) Issue:** In Region 1, Mr. Evangelista Meru said that the CBFM POs have been assisting DENR in prosecuting perpetrators of illegal activities, adding that they have even filed a case in court. Their problem is that they are now receiving threats. He requested the Secretary to look into the matter.

**Response:** Sec. Gozun said DENR knows that it is a risky business and it is trying to form with the Department of Justice a task force to fast track the prosecution of cases, with Atty. Tony Oposa as consultant. She promised to look into the concerns brought up by Mr. Meru, adding that a dialogue with the other leaders in the area would be initiated to discuss the matter.

**17) Issue:** A gentleman from Region 7 complained that while RUPs have been issued to POs involved in coastal CBFMs their problem was that the DENR would not issue a permit to transport harvested mangrove trees because the permit to transport mangrove has also been suspended.

**Response:** The Secretary said it's difficult because another law covers the mangrove areas. She promised to request RED Momongan to look into the matter.

**18) Issue:** Ms. Josefina Campo, President of the National PO Federation, said that one of their problems at the national level is that the Federation still has to be registered. She said that somebody offered to help and she is waiting for that help. At the individual PO level, she cited that the DENR has initiated community livelihood special assistance project (CLASP) but the problem is that the POs have difficulty accessing funds because they have no capability in preparing project proposals. Thus, there is a need to strengthen POs' capability because strong individual POs are the foundation of the national federation.

**Response:** The Secretary said that DENR and ECOGOV would help the National Federation to register. Hopefully, the federation will be registered before the month of December ends. As to project proposals, she said the DENR has a team which helps POs in packaging their project proposals. But the type of project as well as the basic concept must come from the POs, she stressed.



## 2.4 Overview by DENR CBFMD Chief Domingo Bacalla

Mr. Bacalla gave a short overview of the summit, its objectives, participants, mechanics, process flow and expected outputs. He said that the objectives of the summit are to:

- Provide a venue for the PO federation to interact, discuss, assess and share their experiences;
- Review and update POs on CBFM policies; and



- Establish mechanisms and plan program of action.

The major topics to be discussed include the following:

- Updates of the National PO Federation
- Status of POs (Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao Groups)
- Updates on CBFM Policies
- Proposed Simplification of CBFM Policies
- PO costs in protecting, developing and managing CBFM areas
- Financial and Service opportunities for the uplands
  - Foundation for Philippine Environment
  - Peace and Equity Foundation
  - Foundation for Sustainable Societies
  - Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp.
  - Land Bank of the Philippines

Among the expected outputs are:

- Documentation of feedbacks and lessons learned;
- Concrete policy reconciliation; and
- PO federation action plan.

## 2.5 Updates of the National PO Federation by National CBFM PO Chairperson Josefina Campo



Ms. Campo first apologized to the body for her inability to register the National PO Federation since it was founded five years ago. She admits to being emotional when this topic is brought up because she feels that the Federation is always blamed when something goes wrong in the implementation of CBFM projects.

She said that during the national assessment of CBFM, it seemed that the POs were seen in a bad light. Failures of the POs have been highlighted and accusations were hurled that POs could not be trusted to manage forest resources. She said that the failure of CBFM should not be put on the shoulders of the POs. While it is true that there were failures, there were also success stories which should be highlighted like the one in Nueva Viscaya which was supported by the International Tropical Timber Organization. *“Kung makasalanan siguro dapat patawarin dahil ang PO walang bangad na kasamaan sa kalikasan. Handang mamatay para sa kalikasan”* (If the POs have erred then they should be forgiven because the POs only have good intentions for the environment. They are willing to fight and die for the environment). In fact, PO leaders including her have received threats. But she always believed that those people who threaten their lives just do not understand the enormity of the problem. Thus, there is a need to intensify IEC to educate the community on the objectives of CBFM.

Ms. Campo further shared her accomplishments as National PO Federation President in the past year. She represented the federation to the International Forestry Meeting in Nepal and the National Assessment of CBFM. Initially, she felt apprehensive about representing an “illegal” federation but her doubts were erased when Sec. Gozun assured her and the PO federation members that she will see to their registration by year-end.

Ms. Campo then urged her fellow members to participate fully in the two-day activity, especially during the action planning workshops so that they will be able to plot the federation’s direction and determine where it wants to go and what it wants to achieve.

## **2.6 Status of the Regional PO Federation**

The three island groups presented the outputs of their workshops wherein they discussed their accomplishments, strengths and weaknesses, issues and recommendations and lessons learned.

### **A. Luzon**

Mr. Arnold Macaraeg of Region 2 presented the Luzon outputs:

#### **Major accomplishments**

- **Developmental Activities**
  - ⇒ Reforestation
  - ⇒ Assisted Natural Regeneration
  - ⇒ Timber Stand Improvement
  - ⇒ Agroforestry
  - ⇒ Tree Farm
- **Protection**
  - ⇒ Creation of multi-sectoral Protection Committee (with involvement of other stakeholders)
  - ⇒ Deputation of PO members as environment and natural resources officers
- **Livelihood**
  - ⇒ Jeepney/tractor for hire
  - ⇒ Sari sari store
  - ⇒ Mango Processing
  - ⇒ Formalize flower production
  - ⇒ Carabao for hire
  - ⇒ Farm supply
  - ⇒ Establish trading post
  - ⇒ Credit financing (LGU) assistance
  - ⇒ NTFPs for décor
  - ⇒ Coffee production
  - ⇒ Goat raising
  - ⇒ Ginger production
  - ⇒ Agroforestry



- ⇒ Tilapia production
- ⇒ Bamboo production
- ⇒ Cattle raising
- ⇒ Consumer store
- ⇒ Rice mill operation
- ⇒ Micro lending
- ⇒ Lambanog making
- ⇒ Trucking services
- ⇒ Herbal Processing (soap, ointment)
- ⇒ Mat weaving

### **Organizational Development**

- PO strengthening with assistance of NGOs (EWW, CIP, CAVAPPED)
- Created Provincial and Regional CBFM Federation
- Workshop/meeting/training conducted by DENR
- Stand of Luzon on National Federation: Review by-laws and strengthen structure

### **Lessons Learned and Experiences**

- Involvement of other stakeholders – transparency (PO participation) in the implementation of CBFM projects
- Monitoring and supervision
- Assessment/evaluation
- POs reach different stages depending on assistance received
- PO commitment/involvement (*sariling sikap*)
- Massive IEC on CBFM
- Intervention of RUP implementation (Political interference-barangay level)

### **Recommendations**

- Integrate PO plans into MPDCs' plans (Bgy/Mun.)
- Conduct IEC
- Involve youth in IEC (*sila ang nagtuturo sa mga magulang*)
- Include lessons in environment in the school curriculum – elementary

Issues/Concerns	Recommendations
<b>Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow development of all CBFM PO areas (lack of financial support)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of additional fund</li> <li>• Integration with LGU (municipal/barangay) development plans</li> </ul>
<b>Livelihood</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited livelihood projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of submitted project proposals to CLASP</li> </ul>

Issues/Concerns	Recommendations
<b>Protection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputation insurance and allowance including equipment</li> <li>• Inactive multi-sectoral committee to enforce forest protection</li> <li>• Utilization of planted trees without tenure instrument</li> </ul> <b>Organizational Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrelevant corporate by-laws</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak CBFM PO</li> </ul> <b>Policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unstable CBFM policies (i.e., suspension of RUPs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of incentives to deputized ENROs including giving of legal assistance (i.e., paralegal training)</li> <li>• Strengthen/re-activate MFPC</li> <li>• Determine the area and issue necessary tenure instrument specifically on harvesting rights</li> <li>• Review/revise by-laws and organizational structure</li> <li>• Conduct strategic planning</li> <li>• Continuing education/training</li> <li>• Strict observance of CBFM guidelines pertaining to RUP</li> </ul>

### **Open Forum**

**1) Issue:** A participant from Region 9 asked how the Luzon POs were able to access funds to finance their different livelihood programs.

**Response:** A representative from Region 1 answered that it would seem that Luzon has a lot of livelihood programs because POs have already consolidated their reports. He said that the distribution would perhaps be two programs per PO. A representative from Region 3 said that funds mostly came from PO savings, out of the contracted projects and contribution from the members. For the rice mill, he said members contributed P1 per day. Thus, the money used for the IGPs came mostly from PO initiatives.

**2) Issue:** Another participant wanted to know the extent of the areas contracted out by DENR to Luzon POs. He said that the area must be wide enough that the POs managed to have savings.

**Response:** It was not always the case, according to a representative from CAR. He said that before he took over, their PO was deep in debt. They were able to recover through good management and because they were awarded a reforestation project involving a large area. Aside from reforestation, they were also engaged in agro-forestry.

**3) Issue:** Clarification on the meaning of reforestation. What does it mean? Does it mean timber improvement or regeneration?

**Response:** Mr. Bacalla said reforestation is the planting of trees in previously forested areas. There is also afforestation which refers to the planting of trees in open areas which were not previously covered by forest, i.e., grasslands.

## **B. Bicol-Visayas**

Mr. Joselito de Luna from Region 5 presented the outputs:

### **Accomplishments**

- Registered with SEC (Regions 5 and 7, 6 and 8 in process)  
(Provincial – more than 50 percent are registered)
- Conducted regular meetings
- Formulated proposed action plan
- Fund sourcing, i.e.

### **Strengths and Weaknesses**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set of officers are in place at the regional and provincial level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak due to lack of funds</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With legal identity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No viable livelihood projects at the regional federation/provincial level</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some provincial federations have established linkages with some funding institutions like LGUs e.g., Camarines Norte Federation</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some individual POs have established livelihood projects and activities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ALIMANGO of Bohol (NIPA trading and marketing, credit lending)</li> <li>✓ LUFA of Catarman in R8 (Abaca, sari-sari store, money lending, Pagandahan ng Tanim)</li> <li>✓ UCURD of Negros occidental (rice mill, credit, tiger grass)</li> <li>✓ APMONPC of Negros Oriental (rice field, cattle dispersal)</li> <li>✓ SEAMANCOR of Sorsogon (shellcraft, catering, selling propagules)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of 379 POs (Regions 5 to 8), 16 percent have sustainable livelihood projects; majority of POs are active</li> </ul>	



## Issues and Recommendations

Issues	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of financial support to POs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for financial support from the government (national, provincial, local, barangay)</li> <li>• Fund sourcing at PO level</li> <li>• Contract direct to regional federation/provincial (with policy support from the national government)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in administration, change in policies (eg. RUP in natural forest)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No abrupt change in policies without prior consultation with the national CBFMPO organizations</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflicting national policies</li> <li>✓ PD 7161 – no cutting of mangrove</li> <li>✓ DAO 29-26 – CBFMA</li> <li>✓ PACBRMA (DAO 2002-02) – CBFMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National review the conflicting factor of policies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security of DENRO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of incentives and insurance</li> <li>• Provide legal and technical assistance</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing of forest products (eg., charcoal briquette, abaca, fruits and vegetables)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To link access with prospective buyers who buys in large volume</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance in processing and packaging</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty in meeting requirements of ECC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different set of requirements for POs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irregular monitoring and supervision of CBFM projects by DENR (1 or 2 personnel at the field level; insufficient support funds for CBFM projects)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bigger budget allocation for CBFMA monitoring and supervision</li> </ul>

## Lessons Learned

- ✓ POs became more project driven
- ✓ Regular monitoring and assessment sustain the interest of the POs

## Open Forum

**1. Issue:** Mr. Oscar Oñate of Region 2 informed the group that there is a revised checklist of ECC requirements. The old checklist consisted of 100 pages; the new one is only 25 pages. He also informed the group that based on an Administrative Order signed by former DENR Secretary Vic Ramos, the CBFM POs are exempted from paying administrative fees in the amount of ₱3,557. However, when he inquired about it from the DENR, he was told that the PO where he belonged would not be able to avail of the exemption because their project was not part of the Environmental Management Bureau. He said that there are a lot of issues which need to be clarified with DENR. The problem is that there is no group to follow up on these issues. The National Federation, he said, needs to create a group whose sole function will be to follow up on issues.

**Response:** The moderator informed the group that the issues mentioned by Mr. Oñate would be discussed by the next speaker and the other issues will be taken up during the next day.

**2) Issue:** A participant from Region 2 informed the group that his PO has links with a Japanese businessman based in Makati who was interested in buying Saba (banana) fiber, used for making paper and canvass. The fiber is extracted manually. He said that the Japanese offered to buy the fiber at P21 per kilo and that the PO agreed to deliver 3 tons a month. The problem was that their bananas were wiped out by tropical storm *Harurot*. He then told the other POs that in case they are interested to link up with the Japanese, he would be willing to assist them.

### **C. Mindanao**

Mr. Florentino Mabras, Jr. presented his group's outputs, saying that at present there are 609 POs in Mindanao, excluding those in ARMM.

#### **Accomplishments**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Accomplishment/Experiences</b>
Region 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted, through its own initiative, a regional seminar-workshop and convention on December 5, 2000 which was graced by former DENR Secretary Cerilles, the Provincial Governor and PENRO/CENROs of Region 9</li> <li>On June 23, 2001, conducted another seminar on PO threats, again through their own efforts, which was held at the Municipality of Artelin</li> <li>Acquired LGU support for mobilization activities of POs and to address their problems, especially in Zamboanga del Norte, such as the construction of a 34-km. farm-to-market road and acquisition of a solar dryer</li> <li>Experienced gains on CBFM through tenure instruments</li> <li>Successfully mediated a conflict between the LGUs and POs over municipal boundaries of mineral resources</li> </ul>
Region 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Now composed of 265 POs</li> <li>Reorganized the federation, newly-registered with the SEC</li> <li>Built, through POs' initiative and linkage with concerned government agencies, a solar battery charging station worth P700,000; completed road rehabilitation worth P112,000; and constructed a water system worth P45,000</li> </ul>
Region 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted regular IEC campaign in cooperation with DENR Region</li> <li>Helped enforce forest laws and ordinances</li> <li>Strengthened multi-sectoral forest committees and fire brigades by way of streamlining checkpoints (checkpoints were reduced to 5, from 11)</li> <li>Conducted intensive forest surveillance and forest patrols in "hot spots"</li> </ul>

Region	Accomplishment/Experiences
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Got the full support of LGUs (vigilant and cooperative governors and Phil. Army)</li> <li>• Conducted training on GAD, livelihood, eco-governance, project development, and CBFM program implementation</li> <li>• Adopted Big Brother-Small Brother concept, “Adopt a CBFM”</li> <li>• Participated in Tree Congress</li> <li>• Initiated efforts in enhancing livelihood opportunities by writing project proposals</li> </ul>
Region 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted meetings resulting in LGUs’ support and understanding on the CBFM concept</li> <li>• Helped EcoGov make some hesitant LGUs understand the CBFM concept</li> <li>• Many CBFM holders failed to meet their targets due to RUP suspension</li> <li>• Elected new set of PO federation officers in June 2003</li> <li>• Have always complied with DENR directives and special orders and DAOs</li> <li>• Four municipalities in the region now working on Foreign Land Use Plan with Ecogov support</li> <li>• Assisted in the validation of problems on RUP among individual PO CBFM holders</li> </ul>
Region 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Rested” for a while when former PO federation president died but has undergone reorganization last December 9, 2002</li> <li>• Made representations during the validation of CBFM accomplishments and recommended the lifting of RUP suspension</li> <li>• Assisted in the reorganization of four provincial PO federations</li> <li>• In the process of registering new PO federation with SEC</li> <li>• Submitted project proposals per PO for CLASP funding</li> <li>• Assisted CBFM municipalities in disseminating the CBFM concept</li> <li>• Appointed to Agusan del Sur Technical Working Group which is tasked to evaluate the Environment Code of Agusan del Sur</li> <li>• Supervise monthly consultative meetings with PO federation to iron out issues and concerns after consultations per province</li> </ul>

### ***Organizational Strengths***

Region	Organizational Strengths
Region 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieved some success through their OWN initiative</li> <li>• Conducted on their own information dissemination that reached even remote houses of PO members</li> <li>• Addressed illiteracy through “Dalaw Turo”, another self-help initiative</li> <li>• Ensured continuity of plans and responsibilities because of PO had</li> </ul>

Region	Organizational Strengths
	<p>same set of officers since it was established</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unified all POs, from coastal to uplands</li> <li>• Built strong partnerships and linkages with LGUs and other partners</li> </ul>
Region 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of supportive LGU and DENR Officials</li> <li>• PO practices transparency</li> </ul>
Region 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DENR very supportive; most of the LGUs are supportive; governors of three provinces understand the CBFM concept</li> <li>• Meetings are seldom held but communication is constant</li> <li>• Conventions/summits like this also help strengthen organization</li> <li>• Propose to form a Mindanao Coalition on CBFM</li> </ul>
Region 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of a MOA between DENR and LGU</li> <li>• DENR and Ecogov support are main source of strength</li> <li>• PO federation Chair and Vice-Chair are members of the Regional Development Council (RDC)</li> <li>• Operates in four provinces, with various CBFM projects, covering 82,295 hectares, with 8,059 beneficiaries – this is <i>strength!</i></li> <li>• Cooperation between fellow officers and other committees is always present</li> </ul>
Region 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 94 POs are aware of responsibilities/functions, specially on forest protection</li> <li>• Out of the 94 POs, 18 were awarded with RUPs</li> <li>• Officers are active and participative</li> <li>• Solicit support from foreign investors through help of LGU and DENR</li> <li>• Federation closely coordinates with LGU and DENR</li> <li>• Observe regular federation meetings</li> </ul>

### ***Issues and Concerns and Recommendations***

Issues/Concerns	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive and burdensome process of AWP/RUP renewal</li> <li>• Affirmation of RUP that will apply to all POs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a 3-year work plan/RUP; seek affirmation of RUP for 3 years</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspension of RUP on naturally grown species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penalize CBFM holders, who after thorough investigation, are found to have committed violations</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High cost of forest charges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amend DAO 2000 – forest charges in CBFM to be reduced to 30 percent</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No fair market price of plantation species specially gmelina</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish PO wood processing plant for production of finished and semi-processed products</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The constant changing of DENR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify specific policies that affect POs,</li> </ul>

Issues/Concerns	Recommendations
policies/guidelines as a result of fast turnover of management had somehow caused POs to lose interest in CBFM	including conflicting issuances, and refine as needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DENR's policy on utilization/management of CBFM fund considering the PO's notion is that they will be the end recipient of the fund for their reforestation expansion projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify the policy on 25 percent government share utilization/management</li> <li>Give priority incentives/share to the contributing POs from the CBFM fund</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requiring annual ECC prior to the approval/confirmation of AWP/RUP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present same recommendation as that of RUP (3 years)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of variable rates from farm gate price as basis in the computation of 25 percent production share for the harvest of government-owned plantations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remit back to government ASAP so that it can be used for other areas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POs incurred extra expense, such as transport of documents, notarial fees, printing expenses for SMF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Portion of 25 percent government share should be allocated or made readily available to support administrative/monitoring expenses at the CENRO level</li> <li>Amend documentation procedure to exempt notarization requirements for CBFM transport documents</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflicting claims by some influential/local officials and IP/<i>Lumad</i> groups with actual tillers/cultivators resulting to collection of land rental fees and indifference by <i>lumads</i> to apply for CBFMA with more preference to CADT/CALT as tenure instrument</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Come up with harmonized guidelines (between DENR and NCIP) adopting a complementary advocacy program for CBFM and CADT/CALT that covers issuance and access to utilization permitting requirements within ancestral domain claim areas</li> <li>Focus on delineation and encourage <i>lumads</i> to apply for FLUP</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No-cutting policy of all mangrove species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National PO federation to initiate amendment to RA 71</li> <li>Offer alternative livelihoods to affected POs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conversion of mangrove areas to residential settlements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue DENR Central office guidelines on appropriate tenure instrument</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No funding allocation for parcellary survey of individual CBFM lots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DENR to allocate funds for the conduct of survey to supplement funds provided by LGU</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited number of CBFM technical field personnel to handle increasing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create regular plantilla positions for CBFM office (region, PENRO &amp; CENRO). Hire</li> </ul>

Issues/Concerns	Recommendations
CBFM project sites	either fulltime or casual/contractual personnel to augment limited number of staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of funds for IGP/livelihood projects and other development activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DENR to allocate funds for the purpose and if possible, facilitate linkage/networking with financial institutions</li> </ul>

### ***Open Forum***

**1) Issue:** Mr. Oscar Oñate of Region 2 asked why there seems to be duplication or conflict in policies. He said that while DENR is simplifying and streamlining CBFM procedures, it still has to incorporate DAO 2000-29 on RUP. He believed that RUPs should be incorporated in the streamlined procedure.

**Response:** The moderator informed Mr. Oñate that the DENR is currently undertaking reformulation of policies and that his comment was duly noted.

**2) Issue:** A participant from Region 1 noted that he is encouraged to take part in Region 1's projects because almost all of them are issued RUPs. He feels that a partnership can be maximized and that it would be made more fruitful if the future officers are chosen carefully.

**3) Issue:** A participant expressed his concern about delineation or parceling of lots. He said that the POs have a difficult time in delineating the area because of lack of funds. He expressed the hope that the National Federation will be able to assist in the individual parceling of lots because it is an important strategy for individual development.

**Response:** RED Tolentino said this issue could be tackled during the action planning the following day.

## **2.7 Policy Updates on CBFM: National Perspective by DENR CBFMD Chief Domingo Bacalla**

Mr. Domingo Bacalla reviewed the different DENR policies relating to CBFM:

- DENR Memorandum dated 07 March 2003 discussed among other things the issuance of RUP for plantation species and the continued suspension of RUP in natural grown trees. It also discussed sharing in which the government will be entitled to a share for plantations established with government funds. REDs are being held responsible for any violation of this directive.
- DAO 2003-11 that repealed DENR 99-29 reestablishing the need for LGUs to endorse CBFM projects. However, if the LGUs fail to submit an endorsement within 15 days, then the DENR may process the application.
- DENR-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular 2003-01 which strengthens and institutionalizes the DENR-DILG-LGU partnership on devolved and other forest management functions. He discussed co-management of the watershed by the DENR and the LGUs and LGU participation in the issuance of tenure instruments. The joint memo also reiterated the need to create a national steering committee to direct the joint efforts between the DENR, DILG and LGU in co-managing the forest resources.

- Harmonization of IPRA and ENR laws to address issues on the rights of IP vis-à-vis IPRA and ENR laws. One of the objectives of the harmonization is to clarify the jurisdiction, authority and responsibilities of NCIP and DENR. It also aimed to harmonize several conflicting policies such as: a) Contentious policy issuances on ENR and IPs rights, b) Resource management instruments within ancestral domains issued after IPRA and c) Issues filed against IPs in violation of PD 705, NIPAS Act and other ENR laws.

He also talked about joint venture and other forest management agreements in CBFM project areas. Among the objectives of these agreements are:

- ⇒ Facilitate attainment of PO's goals to develop CBFM areas
- ⇒ Encourage private sector's participation in CBFM development
- ⇒ Enhance PO's economic and social development
- ⇒ Promote community-private sector participation and collaboration

He then proceeded to discuss the scope, qualification of partners and mechanics of implementation of the joint venture agreement. He also discussed the provision of technical assistance and the process of registration and issuance of certificate of ownership of forest plantation.

He ended his talk by discussing the proposed guidelines on production sharing agreement. He said that the sharing scheme for wood product is 75 percent for the PO and 25 percent for the government. For non-wood products, the sharing scheme is 90 percent for the PO and 10 percent for the government.

### **Open Forum**

**1) Issue:** A gentleman from Region 2 suggested that the sharing scheme be changed to 80 percent for the POs and 20 percent for the government for wood products. He said that the share of the PO should be increased since the PO is responsible for maintenance. He said that based on their computation the POs would barely break even if they follow the 75-25 percent scheme.

**Response:** Mr. Bacalla said that production sharing only applies to plantation areas established with government funds like FSPs and other government reforestation areas, including those established by TLAs as part of their reforestation compliance. Otherwise, 100 percent goes to the POs. The study mentioned should pass partner consultations first. This should be discussed during the workshop on proposed simplification of CBFM policies.

**2) Issue:** Regarding the sharing scheme, another participant wanted to know when the POs would stop paying the government. If for example all the trees have been harvested and the POs have replanted, does this mean that PO will still have to pay the government for trees harvested during the replanting? It would be unfair because the government did not spend anything for the replanting.

**Response:** Mr. Bacalla said that if the government did not spend anything then all the income will go to the PO. RED Tolentino stated further that the guideline is clear that there is a 70-30 recovery so it means it has an end. If government is able to get its investment back in one harvest, then the PO can stop paying already. Cost recovery is different from production sharing.

**3) Issue:** Another participant said that the CBFM strategy, if implemented right, would be a great help to the government's effort to protect the environment. He said that the CBFM POs are a great help to the government in implementing this strategy and that the government should have no share in the income. He suggested that instead of a sharing scheme, the POs should pay the government back the cost plus interest.

**Response:** Mr. Guiang of Ecogov said that under IFMA there is a tax holiday. First rotation harvest is exempt from tax, tax shall be paid only in the succeeding harvests. He also emphasized the need for the private sector to pay their dues since they would also benefit from the works of the CBFM PO. Mr. Elmer Mercado, also of Ecogov, said that cost sharing should be integrated in the CBFM agreement and made clear to the CBFM POs. Otherwise, how will the POs know that they still have to pay the government?

**4) Issue:** Another participant wondered whether POs still have to pay the local government units when they are already paying the national government.

**Response:** Mr. Bacalla said the LGU share was based on the Local Government Code and not part of the joint venture agreement.

## **2.8 Simplification and Harmonization of CBFM Regulatory Procedures by FDC Executive Director Eleno Peralta**

The Forest Development Center (FDC) of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños was contracted to undertake a study on streamlining CBFM policies with the goal of identifying CBFM regulations that can be simplified for smoother implementation of the CBFM.



The objectives of the study were:

- To review and analyze existing government policies in the implementation of CBFM;
- Document/determine issues/concerns/gaps in the existing CBFM regulatory procedures vis-à-vis its field implementation; and
- Recommend strategies and policy measure to simplify and harmonize CBFM regulatory procedures for enhanced/efficient CBFM implementation.

Among the recommendations were the following:

- IEC campaigns – establishing institutional linkages and intensive IEC campaign
- Identification of CBFMP areas – DENR to come up with control maps and registry consistent with approved FLUPS/CLUPS; available areas made known to the community
- Application by the community participants – continuing IEC and initial screening of applicants prior to PO formation; multi-sectoral committee to appraise CBFM applicants; set of criteria for acceptance for prospective applicants



- Application for CBFMA – operationalizing Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2003-01 on sharing of responsibilities and resources; DENR Regional office and LGU provide assistance in NCIP certification/precondition
- Processing and approval – distributing workloads, responsibilities and accountabilities in processing, validation and approval with the CENRO, PENRO, and RENRO able to validate application depending on the size of the CBFM area applied
- Perimeter survey of CBFM areas with timetable for completion depending on the size of the CBFM area applied
- Certificate of stewardship – may be issued by PO upon actual census with technical assistance from DENR; PO action must be affirmed by CENRO
- Affirmation of CRMF – needs LGU endorsement; CRMF affirmed after lapse of 30 days if CENRO fails to act and notify PO in writing
- Preparation of the 3-5 year work plan (WP) by the POs with specific and/or collaborative responsibilities in each of the concerned project implementers identified; affirmation by CENRO and WP considered affirmed after lapse of 30 days if CENRO fails to act and notify in writing the PO; WP once affirmed shall serve as PO's permit to utilize resources
- Harvesting and utilization – utilization based on sound environmental, social and economic principles; harvesting of timber and non-timber to follow Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting contained/indicated in CRMF and 3-5 year WP.

### **Open Forum**

**1) Issue:** Mr. Macaraeg of Region 2 asked why there were no recommendations for Section 2 on establishment of institutional linkages. He said that this would help greatly in the success of CBFM.

**Response:** Mr. Peralta said there was no such recommendation because it was already existing and could be found under DENR-DILG-LGU JMC No. 2003-01.

**2) Issue:** On page 13, it was suggested that a perimeter survey be conducted by CENRO. The representative from Region 11 wanted to know who would shoulder the expenses for the survey, as the POs do not have the funds.

**Response:** Mr. Bacalla said it was clear in the guidelines that it is a DENR function. Thus, it is only right that DENR fund it. Although DENR also has financial difficulties, still it has to find ways to support that.

**3) Issue:** One PO representative suggested linking with other agencies and academic institutions. He said that the survey should be done through an inter-agency collaboration. The POs could tap the universities which have engineering departments and perhaps the engineering students could do the survey as part of their course requirement.

**Response:** The issue of perimeter surveys is irrelevant with CBFM strategy, said RED Tolentino. He believed that perimeter surveys are needed for forests only and for CBFM they should use the watersheds as the perimeter. Perimeter surveys are a waste of time and money. He believed that what is more critical is resource mapping which is difficult to do because of lack of a diameter tape in the whole Philippines. He also said that monitoring of CBFM should be activity-focused. It should be an opportunity to provide technical assistance, not criticize or look for the negative side.

**4) Issue:** The representative from Palawan said that in apprehending perpetrators of illegal activities, the POs should only assist DENR in prosecuting the violators. It is the DENR that should initiate the case, not the other way around.

**Response:** Atty. Peralta said that it is a general feeling among POs. The POs feel frustrated and helpless because after helping out in the apprehension, the next thing they would know was that the violators have been released. There is lack of follow up in the prosecution of the cases, he said. If there is automatic deputation of POs, at least they have the legal clout as DENR officers to go after perpetrators themselves. They can also coordinate with the PNP directly. EcoGov's Mr. Elmer Mercado also suggested that a provision on deputation of POs be included in the DAO so that POs will have legal clout as officers of DENR to do protection activities.

## **2.9 The POs' Costs in Carrying Out their CBFM Obligations by EcoGov Chief of Party. Ernesto Guiang**

Dr. Guiang started his presentation by saying that international experts have accused the Philippine government upon review of the CBFM guidelines that it is condemning the POs to further poverty.



*Parang niluto ang mga POs sa kanilang mantika.* That is why the objectives of the presentation are to discuss the POs costs in carrying out their CBFMA obligations and to recommend viable options for financing POs costs in CBFM implementation.

He reminded the POs that when they signed the CBFM agreement they not only committed themselves to help in protecting the environment but they also agreed to the responsibilities attached to it. He then enumerated the major commitments among which are the following:

- To protect the forest from illegal cutting, fires, slash-and-burn farming and other destructive activities;
- To rehabilitate highly degraded areas using appropriate sustainable technologies;
- To strengthen and capacitate their POs (organizationally, financially and technically);
- To increase the number of members so that the PO could truly be representative of the community; membership not limited only to friends and kins of barangay captains; and
- To help members develop their farms and improve their livelihood by introducing alternative income generating projects to lessen dependence on the forests.

He said these commitments, if translated into action, would place the CBFM forests under effective on-site management. But to do all these commitments the POs must have empowered members and ability to translate assistance into tangible benefits at the community level. Thus, it would need PESOS, PEOPLE, MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT.

Dr. Guiang suggested that POs generate surplus to be able to fund its social infrastructure activities and extend assistance to members, and that it must increase its working capital to expand and support individual and community enterprises. He opined that because of these many ideas, commitments and requirements, the POs might like to quit. However, their commitment will also bring benefits to their organizations. Thus, they need to weigh the pros and cons of these recommendations.

In closing, he quoted David Thoreau, “government is best, when it is the least”-- when incentives are able to trigger favorable behaviors instead of regulations and control. CBFM’s sustainability, he said, depends on how each partner – POs, DENR, LGUs, federations, private sector – would support the vision of sustainable forestry in the Philippines

### **Open Forum**

**1) Issue:** Mr. Arnold Macaraeg of Region 2 wanted to know the government commitments to CBFM.

**Response:** Dr. Guiang said he did not touch on government’s commitment in his presentation as he assumed that the government is committed. He, however, advised the group to make noise at the national and regional level to raise any issues particularly on budget which they wanted the government to commit. He said that the best thing to do was to learn about the budget cycle of the national government and LGUs so that POs will be able to lobby for allocation of funds for CBFM projects. He said that the POs should assume that the DENR and the LGUs are unpredictable because they are politically driven. Thus, it is up to the POs to determine their fate.

**2) Issue:** One participant noted the lack of government commitment.

**Response:** Dr. Guiang said that one person does not control the bureaucracy. While the Secretary and the DENR itself might be committed to the program we still cannot predict what the government as a whole is going to do. RED Tolentino noted that government’s commitment is a difficult issue because there are always change in policies when there is change in administration. Secretary Gozun, he said, has promised that all CBFM policies will be straightened out before she steps down. But he implored POs to remember that Secretary’s come and go, the important thing, he stressed, is the commitment of the POs.

**3) Issue:** Mr. Paras from Region 12 disagreed with Dr. Guiang’s statement that “government is best, when it is the least”.

**Response:** Dr. Guiang said what he meant was there are times when coaching and incentives – not guidelines and regulations -- are the ones needed to keep a program going. POs do not need only guidelines but technical assistance. He said that it is a lot easier to craft regulations than design incentives.

At this juncture, Dr. Guiang distributed the draft Request for Assistance form for the participants’ comments. He asked them to submit their recommendations to either Ms. May Ybanez or Mr. Elmer Mercado.

## 2.10 Workshop on the Proposed Simplification of CBFM Policies and Joint Venture Agreement (JVA)

Participants were given two documents for their perusal. They were instructed to study the documents and discussed the proposed changes for inclusion in the review of CBFM policies. Participants were again divided into three groups (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao):

- |   |   |               |
|---|---|---------------|
| • Proposed DAO on JVA                       | - | Luzon         |
| • Chapters 1-2 of the proposed DAO No. 2003 | - | Bicol-Visayas |
| • Chapters 3-5 of the proposed DAO No. 2003 | - | Mindanao      |

### Workshop Outputs

#### A. *Luzon*

- In the definition of terms (Section 3), it was suggested that all abbreviations be in capital letters.
- In Section 4, Scope and Coverage, it was proposed that land use be consistent with the CBFM programs and the use is to be subject to review after a certain period of time. Joint venture agreements should be consistent with CBFM program.
- In Qualification for Partners, Section 5, it was proposed that the law specify the ratio of capital ownership in foreign corporations.
- In Section 6, with regard to the mechanics of implementation: subparagraph 1, the word “management” should be included; subparagraph 2, letter of intent should also be furnished to the local LGU concerned; subparagraph 5, the copies of the agreements should be given to all agencies involved.

#### B. *Visayas (please take note: the corrections or comments are in bold letters)*

- *Chapter 1, Section 3 (1)*

Sec. 3. Initial Screening of Applicants. The screening committee at the CENRO level (local multi-sectoral committee) composed of the DENR, LGU, other concerned government agencies, NGO and other sectors concerned shall appraise the interested applicants’ or prospective participants’ willingness and commitment, technical and financial capability **(not as prerequisite for the approval of the application but merely as benchmark)**, training needs and full understanding of the CBFMP, attitude towards environmental conservation, among others.

- *Chapter 1, Section 5 (1)*

The PO applicants shall seek individual and/or joint endorsement of their application from the respective LGUs **after consultation with the community**. As provided for in DAO 2003-11, the concerned LGU/s shall act on the CBFMA application within a period of 15 working days to the CENRO. Should the LGU fail to act on the CBFMA application filed

within a period of 15 working days, the concerned office of the DENR shall process the CBFMA application.

- *Chapter 1, Section 6 (2)*

The **approving authority awards the approved CBFMA to the PO and shall furnish the CENRO, DENR Regional Office, CBFM** and the Forest Management Bureau a copy of the approved CBFMA.

- *Chapter 1, Section 7 (whole section to be deleted)*

**Sec. 7. CS Issuance.** The CBFM strategy recognizes individual rights of occupancy through the granting of the certificate of stewardship (CS). The CS may be issued by the PO based on the census of actual forest occupants conducted, provided that the area is within the CBFM area applied for and the CS applicant is a regular member of the PO. The PO, through a resolution shall submit a list of CS issued to individual members to the CENRO for affirmation.

The DENR in collaboration with appropriate/concerned LGU shall provide the PO with the appropriate technical and social assistance to ensure the smooth implementation of the CS issuance. In addition, the DENR shall also monitor the strict implementation of the CS issuance. *(whole section 7 must be deleted)*

- *Chapter 2, Section 8 (1)*

Sec. 8. Community **Resource** Mapping and Land Use Planning. After the CBFMA had been awarded, the PO shall conduct community mapping. The CENRO, LGU and other concerned sectors shall assist the PO in the conduct of the community mapping as basis for land use planning. The mapping of the present community land use shall include an inventory of flora and fauna and the vegetative cover. The census of forest occupants shall also be indicated in the community map showing the corresponding areas occupied/tilled. An inventory of the knowledge and skills of the community members including indigenous knowledge systems shall also be done. These activities would determine and assess existing potential resources of the community and land uses.

- *Chapter 2, Section 11 (2)*

A copy of the affirmed CRMF shall be provided to the concerned municipal/provincial LGU, CENRO, PENRO, Regional Office, FMB/CBFMD and the PO for their reference and as basis of support and assistance. **The affirmed CRMF shall further be subject to the validation by the PENRO and the RED.** *(delete the bold portion)*

- *Chapter 2, Section 14 (3)*

3. Consolidation of PO sectoral plans into a 3-Yr WP. The resource utilization in the 3-Yr WP shall indicate the forest resources/products to be utilized **based on the timber/resource inventory in the area**, approximate area of the activity (may be

presented thru a map), approximate quantity of resources to be utilized, methods of resource use for non-extractive or harvesting purposes, planned development or rehabilitation of extracted resources and marketing of resource services or products. The consolidated sectoral 3-Yr WP shall undergo a review and final assessment by the PMO-CENRO, AO, PO leaders/planning team and LGU counterpart prior to its ratification.

**C. Mindanao** (please take note: the corrections or comments are in bold letters)

- Chapter 3, Section 17 (1)

Development and Management of Production Forest. The production forest shall be established in areas with a slope of 50% and below. The forest management systems will include the plantation establishment in open areas and application of silvicultural programs such as timber stand improvement (TSI), assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and other silvicultural schemes in adequately stocked areas. The agro-forestry, mix planting of agricultural crops, fruit and forest trees shall be done in areas identified to be suitable for agriculture, **with slope of 30% and below.**

- Chapter3, Section 17 (2)

Development and Management of Protection Forest. The protection forest covers areas 50% and above in slope and along rivers and creeks, 20 meters on both sides. These areas will be properly delineated on the ground. The forest management systems in protection forest include among others, the planting of appropriate species in open spaces, application of silvicultural treatment and biodiversity conservation.

- Chapter3, Section 18

Add recommendations after the last paragraph:

**Recommendations:**

- **LGU and DENR to make mandatory provision for incentives.**
- **On automatic deputation of POs, not all officers/members should be deputized. Officers must choose those that are qualified to be deputized.**

- Chapter 3 Sec. 19, (paragraph 1)

Utilization of resources shall be based on sound environmental, social and economic principles. Harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products in CBFM area shall strictly follow the Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting likewise contained and indicated in the CRMF and 3-Yr WP. **(POs to choose which is favorable to them, a 3- or 5- year WP.)**

- *Chapter 3 Sec. 20, (paragraph 1)*

Processing of Harvested Products. The concerned CENRO shall encourage the community members to process non-timber forest products like rattan and bamboo into handicrafts, furniture and novelty items for added value and increased income. To maximize wood recovery from the plantation areas and production forests from CBFM projects, the PO may operate a **mini**/re-sawmill with a maximum flywheel diameter of 18” and blade size of 2 “ width or may adopt other schemes consistent with DENR regulations and guidelines. Provided that, only timber legitimately harvested from the CBFM projects shall be allowed as raw materials from the re-sawmill operation of the POs.

- *Chapter 5, Sec. 27, (paragraph 1)*

Multi-Sectoral Monitoring and Evaluation. A participatory mode of monitoring and evaluation through a composite team shall be **based on critical activities conducted** to assess the various issues, problems and constraints related to the development and strengthening of the CBFM implementation. The composite team shall include representatives from the CBFM Regional Office, PENRO, CENRO, LGU, AOs/NGOs and other concerned sectors. The M&E project reports highlighting the problems, opportunities and recommendations shall be submitted by the CENRO to the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) through proper channels.

- *Chapter 5, Sec. 28 (add the word **mini** in Re-Sawmill Operations)*

Sec. 28. Monitoring and Documentation of Harvesting and **Mini**/Re-Sawmill Operations. In CBFM areas where the POs undertake resource utilization, their harvesting and **mini**/re-sawmill operations shall be monitored and documented by the CENRO concerned. This shall include among others, the following:

1. Control, record and monitor the volume of planted/naturally growing trees harvested, **mini**/re-sawn and transported from the CBFM projects;
2. Conduct monthly check/verification of the volume of lumber or outputs of the **mini**/re-sawmill operations against the volume of raw material inputs;
3. The Regional Office/PENRO to check and verify the operations at least once a month to ensure that the raw materials for the operation of the **mini**/re-sawmill are those harvested from the CBFM plantations and/or natural production forest.

A report shall be submitted to the USEC for Field Operations through the FMB Director using the CBFM Harvesting and **Mini**/Re-sawmill operations Form A. (Annex H). The same shall be incorporated in the CBFM Information System submitted quarterly to the Central Office.



## 2.11 Meeting of the National PO Federation and Election of Officers



Before the election started, Mr. Macaraeg brought up the issue on the presence of two representatives of PO federations in Region 2 and asked who should be the rightful representative to the National PO Federation. He alleged that the old federation is already inactive because of the failure of Mr. Oñate to attend several gatherings and meetings. He said his group should be recognized as the rightful representative.

Mr. Oñate denied the allegations and stressed that his group is still very active. He presented several correspondences that prove his active leadership in the regional federation.

The DENR CBFM coordinator for Region 2 tried to settle the matter by saying that DENR recognizes Mr. Oñate as the National Federation Vice President while it acknowledges Mr. Macaraeg as the regional representative of Region 2. Mr. Oñate, however, decried this, saying that the DENR has no control over the federation, it being an independent body. The regional federation presidents intervened by recognizing Mr. Oñate as the official representative of Region 2. The group agreed to respect such recognition.

Roll call follows.

Some observers of the meeting suggested that the election of officers would be futile without a Vision, Mission and Goal. Ms. Campo, however, said that due to time limitation formulating such would not be possible. Besides, she said the purposes and objectives of the federation had long been identified. Furthermore, electing a new set of officers is for the purpose of the registration of the federation.

It was suggested that Ms. Campo be retained as president since she has already the necessary experience and her closeness to the Secretary of DENR has been viewed as an asset by the group. Thus, it was agreed that election be conducted for the vacant positions only (Vice-presidents for Visayas and Mindanao, secretary-general, treasurer and auditor).

The group also agreed to have the registration fast tracked by using the pre-drafted by-laws of SEC. They then agreed on the list of incorporators and Board of Trustees. *(please see annex for list of incorporators).*

### Newly Elected National PO Officers

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 1. President      | – | Josefina E. Campo<br>Region 11 CBFM POs Federation  |
| 2. Vice-President | - | Oscar R. Oñate<br>Quisavisca Confederation of Forest Protection<br>and Developers, Inc., Region 2 |



- |                                |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 3. Vice-President for Luzon    | - | Vicente P. Cantigia<br>Central Luzon Federation of CBFMA Holders     |
| 4. Vice-President for Visayas  | - | Rolando Garote<br>Region 8 CBFM PO Federation                        |
| 5. Vice-President for Mindanao | - | Venancio C. Cueno<br>WM CBFM PO Federation, Region 9                 |
| 6. Secretary General           | - | Florentino P. Mabras Jr<br>Caraga CBFM PO Federation                 |
| 7. Treasurer                   | - | Joselito de Luna<br>Region 5 CBFM PO Federation Legaspi City         |
| 8. Auditor                     | - | Villamor Julian<br>Federation of CBFM POs in the Ilocos Region, Inc. |

### **Day 03**

***December 3***

#### **3.1 Preliminary Activities**

Ms. Remy Evangelista welcomed the participants to the final day of the workshop and went over the remaining things to be taken up for the day. A PO representative gave a recap on what transpired the previous day.



### 3.2 Financial and Service Opportunities for the Uplands

#### A. *Foundation for Philippine Environment (FPE) by Ms. Mylene Pagatpatan, Project Officer*

Ms. Pagatpatan oriented the participants on FPE:

- FPE is an NGO borne out of the need to conserve biodiversity of the environment and promote sustainable development
- Critical roles: catalyst for cooperation, grant-maker, fund facilitator
- Types of projects assisted: action grants, proactive projects, site-focused projects
- Uses the CBCRM approach; components include community organizing/institution building, livelihood development, advocacy/linkage/networking

#### Open Forum

**1) Issue:** A participant asked the criteria used to be able to avail of FPE's assistance.

**Response:** Ms. Pagatpatan said a project must be within areas that are under FPE's priority sites, especially under the site-focused projects (SFPs). Due to time limitation, she suggested that participants download the information from FPE's website [www.fpe.ph](http://www.fpe.ph) or inquire from their offices at: 77 Matahimik St., Teachers' Village, QC (Luzon); Unit 2D, NDI Building, AS Fortuna St., Mandaue City (Visayas) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Anda Corporate Center, F. Ynigo St., Davao City (Mindanao).

**2) Issue:** A representative from Zamboanga del Sur complained that Davao is very far from his area.

**Response:** Ms. Pagatpatan said as much as FPE wanted to reach out to more people, especially in Mindanao, the Davao office is only what FPE can afford at the moment.

**3) Issue:** Mr. Macaraeg asked whether there was a limit to the number of POs that can avail of FPE's support. He also wanted to know the criteria for approval of proposals.

**Response:** Ms. Pagatpatan said there is indeed a limit because their endowment fund is also limited. Under SFPs, for example, only 15 organizations from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao can be assisted. But there are other windows that they can submit proposals to, she said. She again told the participants to visit FPE's website.

**4) Issue:** Mr. Mabras wanted to know the ceiling for FPE grants.

**Response:** For action grants, it is between ₱100,000 and 150,000, Ms. Pagatpatan said.,

**5) Issue:** It was indicated in the presentation that FPE saw logging as a threat. It's ironic because just yesterday when Sec. Gozun was here, the participants were pushing for the lifting of the suspension of the RUP.

**Response:** Ms. Pagatpatan said it depends on the context of the project that FPE has in the area. Because FPE's thrust is on bio-diversity, it has to advocate the need to protect the habitat. Of course, when one cuts down trees, one is destroying the flora and the fauna and in effect the

environment. But if in your areas, it is not too much of a threat, then that's your prerogative, she added. FPE, she said, also recognizes that there are some that benefit from sustainable logging.

**6. Issue:** A representative of the indigenous people of Quirino requested for support.

**Response:** Ms. Pagatpatan said FPE is assisting IPs in Mindanao and Zambales, adding that her organization is now developing something with UNDP. As for Quirino, she said that what FPE can do for now is give the PO a proposal format. She said that she can't promise anything for now, but maybe the PO will have an opportunity under FPE's action grants.

**7. Issue:** The representative from Region 11 said that he heard of an NGO implementing FPE-funded projects for POs but that NGO does not exist anymore. He asked how to ensure that funds are being used according to the purpose in which it was given and why not give the funds directly to the POs?

**Response:** This can be ensured through monitoring and evaluation, Ms. Pagatpatan said. As to why funds are not given directly to POs, she said that some POs are not yet strongly organized and that NGOs are considered the conduit of the foundation.

### ***B. Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) by Mr. Larry Villacorte, Jr., Senior Program Officer***

Mr. Villacorte stated that PEF's main office is located in Loyola Heights, Q.C. but they also have offices in Cebu, Davao and Luzon. He said that PEF envisions empowered communities that: a) meet their basic needs—food, health, education, shelter, water; b) engage in socio-cultural and economic activities; c) participate meaningfully in local governance; and d) in an atmosphere of social harmony, cooperate and share with one another.

PEF supports best practices and provides civil society organizations with development financing and technical assistance. He also talked about criteria for project and proponent eligibility. He then expounded on the type of assistance that they offer as well as the number of projects that they have approved so far.

### ***Open Forum***

**1) Issue:** A representative from Region 12 wanted to know how many projects have been approved in Cebu.

**Response:** Mr. Villacorte said 58 projects worth ₱54 million have been approved. Of the amount, ₱28 million has been released.

**2) Issue:** The representative from Quirino again brought up the issue of IPs and asked if PEF could help them.

**Response:** Assistance, he said, could be in the form of livelihood. However, he added that the IP themselves will have to develop the proposal.

**3) Issue:** A participant from Quirino said IPs have difficulty in reading and writing since they have low educational background. With this, how will they be able to write project proposals?



**Response:** Ms. Ofelia Cardeno of PEF said PEF usually conducts write shops to help POs in project proposal development. The participant from Quirino was requested to coordinate with PEF Luzon office for the schedule of the write shops in their area

**4) Issue:** If the proposal is approved by PEF, will the money still pass through DENR?

**Response:** Ms. Cardeno answered that the fund will go directly to the POs.

**5) Issue:** A representative from Region 9 noted that PEF has a housing component. He then asked whether this would include urban poor housing and lot acquisition.

**Response:** Mr. Villacorte said PEF focused on on-site development and construction. Land acquisition should be the counterpart of the proponent.

**6) Issue:** One participant wanted to know whether the money would be grant or loan.

**Response:** Mr. Villacorte said it is usually a loan but the interest is very minimal, only 12 percent per annum. PEF does not ask for service fee and other charges and if one is a good payer, he said PEF will give back 3 percent of the amount paid after the loan has been completely settled.

**7) Issue:** Ms. Inday Campo asked if PEF could assist the National Federation in organizational strengthening.

**Response:** The federation need to submit a project proposal for that before PEF can help, Mr. Villacorte said.

**8) Issue:** Mr. Oñate asked if they could charge to PEF project proposal development, especially in instances where they require the assistance of experts.

**Response:** Mr. Villavorte said POs should shoulder the cost of proposal making as part of their counterpart.

**9) Issue:** A participant also asked if PEF could assist POs in finding markets for their products.

**Response:** Mr. Villacorta said marketing should be part of the proposal. PEF could extend the fund; the rest of the work goes to the PO-partner

### ***C. QUEDANCOR by Ms. Marian Calderon, AVP for Systems Planning***

Ms. Calderon first gave a background on the credit and poverty situation in the Philippines. She said that the number of Filipinos living below the poverty line is increasing and that 41.4 percent of these are found in the rural areas. She deplored the fact that many Filipinos resort to informal money lenders that charge very high interest rates because they are unable to access formal lenders, like banks, which required collaterals.

She also gave a background on QUEDANCOR, a government financial institution. Its objective is to hasten the flow of investments and credit into the countryside to trigger growth and development, rural productivity, employment and enterprises thereby generating more livelihood and income opportunities for farmers, fisherfolk and other rural entrepreneurs.

She then talked about the financing for upland farmers and the criteria for loan availment, who may avail of such loan, the amount, the interest they are charging and the number of years in which the

loan must be paid. She also talked about the Self-Reliant Theme Model (SRT), its objectives, eligibility requirement, interest rate and loan disbursement.

### ***Open Forum***

**1) Issue:** A proposal was submitted by the Zamboanga del Norte participant to the QUEDANCOR office in Ipil two years ago. The documents were received by a certain Vic Diaz. The documents were misplaced. He wanted to know how he would be able to get his documents back.

**Response:** Ms. Calderon said he should write a letter addressed to the QUEDANCOR President citing the circumstances under which the proposal got lost. She said that in the submission of documents, POs should retain a copy and make sure that they know the name of the person who received the documents. She promised to try to act on it as soon as they receive the letter of complaint.

**2) Issue:** A participant wanted to know the kind of products that QUEDANCOR is willing to fund.

**Response:** Ms. Calderon said copies of the QUEDANCOR guidelines will be distributed so that participants will be guided on what products would qualify.

**3) Issue:** Mr. Paras said that his POs have a membership of about 700. Will it still qualify for SRT?

**Response:** It will still qualify but the PO will have to be divided into smaller groups per project to ensure easy management of the projects.

**4) Issue:** Ms. Malou Zarasate from Davao wanted to know if QUEDANCOR could extend loan to a sawmill project?

**Response:** Ms. Calderon said loans could be extended for the production and marketing. The PO may coordinate with their APs.



**5) Issue:** One participant wanted to know about terms of payment and amount of interest..

**Response:** The terms of payment would depend on the type of product and type of loan.

At this juncture, The Quirino representative, who signed the QUEDANCOR MOA on behalf of the POs, shared how the DENR and QUEDANCOR partnership came about. He stressed Quirino province's stand of not allowing anyone to cut trees in protected areas. They joined the CBFM because they wanted to help government protect the forests. Their promise to DENR to achieve this objective is through the "tree marker". Their collateral is to mark trees with their names and the commitment to care for these trees.

Due to time constraints, the open forum had to be cut short. It was then proposed that before the group proceeds to the action planning, the group should tackle organizational planning to discuss important issues such as the vision, mission and structure.

Ms. Campo presented a working document drafted by the CVC Seed, a PO federation in Region 2, for comments or modification by the group to suit their purpose.

### **3.3 Organizational Planning**

#### ***Proposals for Inclusion in the Constitution and By-Laws of the National PO Federation***

Following a heated discussion that included, among others, the organizational structure, the following were agreed upon:

##### **Vision**

A self-reliant unifying entity among Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) federations in the nation that shall preserve spiritual, cultural heritage, promote and undertake protection, development, conservation and sustainable management of the country's environment and natural resources.

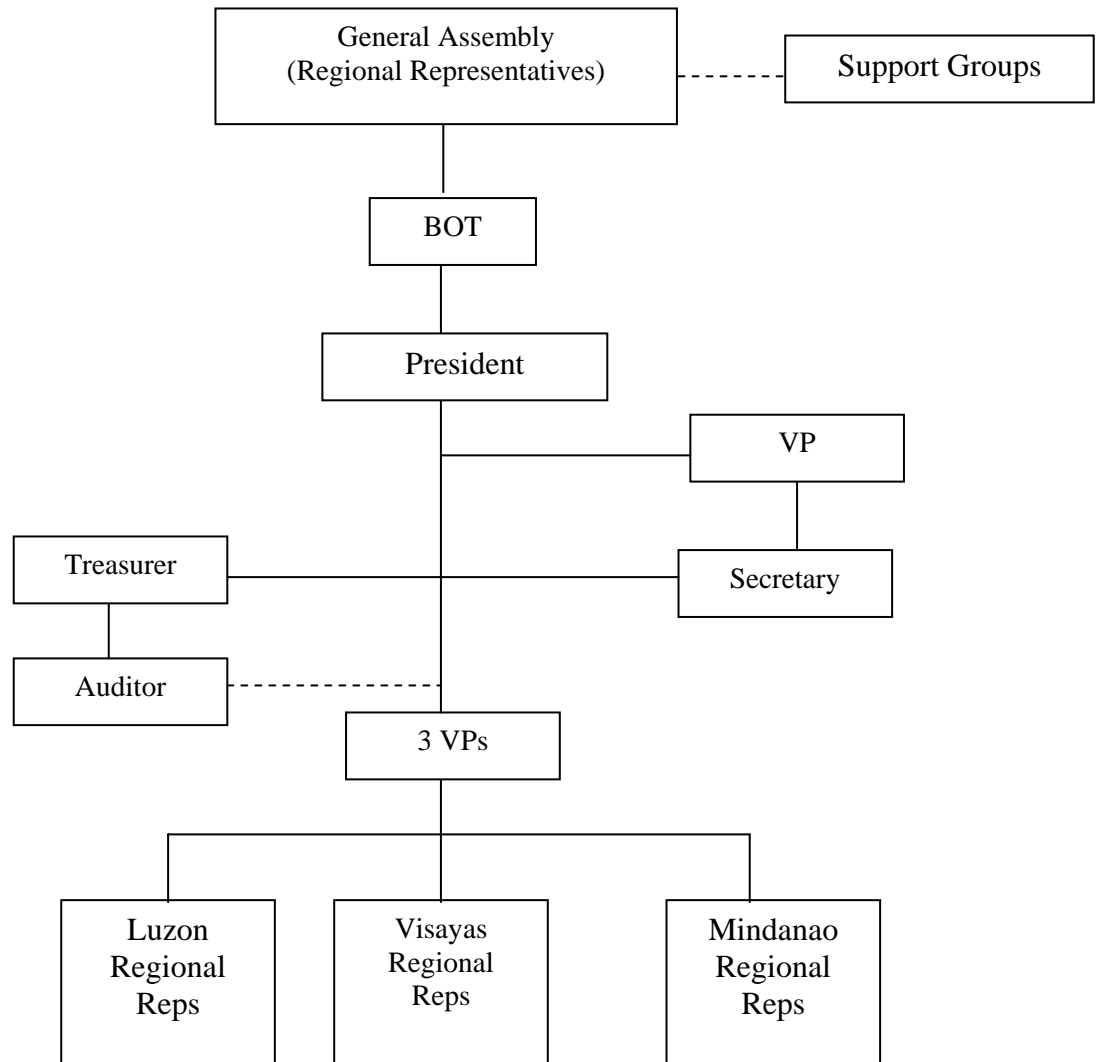
##### **Mission**

To continuously strengthen ourselves and unify our CBFM federation towards sustainable advancement of the regions' natural resources in order to fulfill the needs of CBFM federations while becoming more responsive members of civil society.

##### **Objectives**

- Represent CBFM people's organizations (POs) by bringing forth concerns from the PO level to the appropriate agencies and taking the lead in finding resolutions for each;
- Assist member and affiliate CBFM federations to become ecologically accountable, economically viable, politically strong and socially responsive;
- Catalyze/inspire CBFM federation participation in local governance in collaboration with other groups, agencies and stakeholders; and
- Synergize activities of each federation for a more integrated and effective implementation of environmental programs and endeavors nationwide.

Structure



Term of Office – 2 years, 3 years maximum

***Membership to General Assembly***

- 30 members; 2 regional representatives each for every region composed of President and Vice-President
- Only regional Presidents can run as National Federation President; the rest of the 30 GA representatives can run for Vice-President and other positions



*Name of Federation (top 3 choices, in case a proposed name is already registered with the SEC)*

**National Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) PO Federation, Inc.**

National Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Federation, Inc.

Nagkakaisang Samahan ng mga Nangangalaga sa Kalikasan ng Pilipinas, Inc.

Office

C/o CBFM Division  
Forest Management Bureau  
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel. No. (02) 9259796



Logo - as is

Life of Corporation - 50 years, renewable for another 50 years

Membership - Regional PO federations

Purpose/s

- Unify all CBFM federations all over the country
- Attain common goals and aspirations
- Be an active avenue for other agencies and constitutions to implement their extension services
- Foster harmonious relations among the CBFM-PO federations in all their undertakings

Functions of Officers and Members - a 5-member committee was formed to finalize functions for comments and approval by the body in a separate meeting scheduled after dinner

*Proposal for the creation of a national coordinating committee for CBFM to hold office at the DENR Central Office to act as Secretariat of the National PO Federation and be responsible for the following:*

- Compilations of profiles of PO federation members
- Creation of database for the PO profiles, as well as funding institutions and technical and capa-building resource persons
- Follow up concerns and project proposals of PO federation members
- Link with other regional federations

PO federation members to submit to NCC/Secretariat PO profiles and list of pressing needs, organizational issues and concerns (top 3) to be addressed by the National PO Federation by end of January 2004.



### 3.4 Synthesis

Ms. Isabelita V. Austria of DENR Forest Management Bureau gave the synthesis. Instead of a verbal presentation, Ms. Adela Villegas of Region 7 opted to deliver her closing words through a song about Cebu. This was followed by a response from a representative from each island group. The representatives thanked the organizers and expressed their commitment to the success of the CBFM program. They elaborated on the need for unity and cooperation for the achievement of the goals of the federation

### 3.5 Closing Message by DENR Usec. Renato de Rueda

Usec. De Rueda started by saying that what the POs are fighting for today are still the same issues and concerns that they were fighting for before. The only difference is that today, there are more partners (“*katumang*”) taking up the cause. Many foresters may not believe on the CBFM strategy but he assured the participants that it is a good strategy. He likened CBFM to gold which must be tested by fire. CBFM is a product that underwent so many trials, that it has become a very good strategy to address the need for improved and sustained management of forest and upland resources. But the problem is, are the POs ready to face their battles? For CBFM to succeed the POs should have a passion to move ahead. The Secretary has given total support to the CBFM program and hopes that the POs will support her not only in terms of politics but also realities in the ground. The POs should have a passion for their work and must also be careful not to slide.

He said that while attending a forum among technical and social scientists, he discovered that the Philippines is ahead in terms of policies when it comes to IPs, environment and others. But translating these policies into action is another matter.

Usec. De Rueda feels the CBFM program was misdirected the past two years but assured everyone that it will be given renewed focus. He urged POs not to look back on faults but build on successes, no matter how small they are. What the federations and other stakeholders need is a concrete direction. He further challenged POs to be transparent to their members about their organizational income and advised them not be affected by national politics, and instead focus on leaders at the project level and choose those that are committed and supportive of their initiatives. He asked for the PO’s continued partnership in solving problems on forest management because they are the true heroes, de-facto managers of forest lands and resources.

Usec. De Rueda gave assurance that PO recommendations on the JVA and proposed simplification of CBFM policies will be taken into consideration in drafting future Administrative Orders. He commended Ms. Inday Campo and the rest of PO representatives for their dedication to CBFM and reiterated DENR Secretary Gozun’s commitment and support to CBFM and the national federation, especially pertaining to their SEC registration

To close his message, he posed the following challenges to the federation:

- Increased memberships and improved understanding and appreciation of the CBFM
- Continued capacitation and motivation for both POs and DENR and other stakeholders to do beyond normal capacity

- Priority focus on agro-forestry
- Be the ultimate resource managers someday.

### **3.6 Closing Activities**

Dr. Isabelo Montaje, DENR Regional Technical Director, delivered a brief closing message. He stated that much has been said about different PO experiences all over the country but the ultimate objective remains to be the sustainability of forest resources. He thanked the participants for coming and hoped that they enjoyed their stay in Cebu.

Ms. Adela Villegas announced some urgent administrative concerns before the distribution of certificates to the participants, with Usec. De Rueda, Dr. Montaje and Mr. Bacalla on hand.

The National CBFM PO Summit formally ended at 5:45 PM.